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The pastor speaks

Sources of spiritual renewal

By REX J. BENNETT

Isaiah 30:15 - "For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength. . ."

The above words from the prophecies of Isaiah are among the most challenging words in the entire Old Testament. And these words are not limited in their application to the Eighth Century B.C. when Isaiah spoke them to the people of that day. Here we have a much needed challenge for the individual at any time, and especially in our day and in our lives.

Notice that the verse begins with a very basic human need - the need for a "returning to God." All the religions of the world came out of that need: we are estranged from God; we sense a separation from the Creator; and we need to return to Him. Frequently, the Bible encourages us to repent, to change our way of thinking, to change our attitude; and herein the prophet demands the same experience - we are to return to God and the ways of God. Do you remember the words of St. Augustine: "My soul is not at rest until it finds its rest in Thee, O God." In Jesus' familiar parable of the Prodigal Son, we read that this young man "came to himself" and then, he returned back home to his father's house to begin a radically new life, and to find rest there. A returning to God - how basic to your need and mine; how very necessary in a culture that pulls us in the opposite direction.

The remaining part of this verse says something to us about spiritual renewal; Isaiah points us to that experience by encouraging us to do two things:

First of all, we are encouraged to moments of personal quietness. And we need that reminder, since it is so difficult to find quietness in our noisy, hurry-up, world. But if we are to experience renewal within, we must consciously and deliberately find that time and secure that place for such quietness. If we are too busy to find such a time, then we have more business than God ever intended for us to have.

After the early disciples had returned from a mission of witnessing, Jesus said an essential word to them: He said to them: "Come, and let us go apart into the desert place and rest." Begin the day with a period of quietness and reflection; find some time during the day to read from God's Word, to pray for yourself, for others, and for our world. It is interesting to note that Dr. Norman Vincent Peale often advises busy people who are in trouble with themselves to use a brief period of time daily for personal meditation. (And it works well).

Secondly, we are encouraged to personal confidence. Obviously, there is a close relationship between quietness and confidence, for quietness is not likely to exist in a person without confidence. Observe the blustering, self-promoting person who lacks a quiet spirit; isn't his basic difficulty often a lack of personal confidence? And the confidence that gives strength is confidence in God. We can know the assurance upon which serenity is builded, if we continually draw upon the infinite power of God.

"We kneel how weak, we rise how full of power, Why therefore should we do ourselves this wrong Or others - that we are not always strong.

. . . Joy, strength, and courage are with God."

The God of open arms

By WILLIAM L. TRIMYER
Lesson for July 27, 1980
Scripture References: Isaiah 40-41
Focal Passage: Isaiah 40: 1-11
The God Of Open Arms [Isa. 40:1-2]

Isaiah was a prophet with a compassionate heart and a love for the people of Israel. His words of hope and comfort are hallmarks in the biblical narrative. "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people" is the compassionate cry of a prophet in love with God and in love with the people of God.

This week's lesson moves us closer to the end of the exile and the people's return to their own lands and homes. "Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem.....that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned..."

Isaiah proclaims a message of hope and consolation to both Jerusalem and the exiled people. It was time to come home! Going home! What words are more refreshing to a people exiled for 70 years?

The people had paid dearly for their sins, and now it was about time to return to their familiar homeland. What a sight for sore and weary eyes. Home!

God Makes Himself known [Isa. 40:3-5]

The coming of God has often been trumpeted prior to his actual manifestation. "Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." The implication here is that God is about to reveal his strength by returning to Jerusalem, the city that was once devastated and laid to ruin. God will now return in and through his exiled people.

And everyone would see it! This procession would be no back street affair, but would be out front on the main drag for all to witness. In other words, God will reveal his glory and spendor in ways that cannot be missed nor overlooked. "And all flesh shall see it together." It was so because "...the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

This same prophecy of Isaiah was quoted by John the baptizer in the the New Testament. He saw Jesus as the fulfillment of that prophecy and himself as the "voice crying in the wilderness."

In verses 6-8, Isaiah voices a note of pessimism. He can't quite figure out what to say to a people who had forsaken their God and his commandments.

Isaiah painted a picture of man as weak mortal creatures. "All flesh is as grass...the grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it; surely the people is grass."

But there is hope in the prophet's message, a glad hope that in spite of man's mortal qualities, "the word of our God shall stand for ever." Thus, God's promises of restoration would come to pass as he had said.

God's Gentle Strength [Isa. 40:9-11]

Jerusalem and it's people would soon have something to shout about! They would become a witness to all cities concerning the goodness of God. They were to shout it from the mountaintops that God is a God of reward for those who follow him. Thus, Jerusalem was given a new opportunity to become the city of God's people as he had previously intended her to become.

God is synonymous with love and compassion. While he judges and requires payment for our sins, he also welcomes us home with open arms. He has for us many rewards if we are willing to accept his way for life. He is the kind and compassionate shepherd who loves and desires the best for his children.

The Bible and daily living

The good news for us is that when we are in "exile" and it looks like all exits are closed to us, God may be preparing a whole new dimension of life!

Dr. Trimyer is pastor of Elon Baptist Church in Pamplin, Va.

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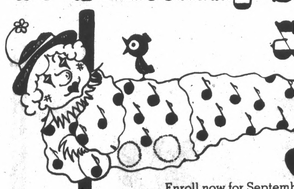

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Mrs. Larry Douglas Hall

Miss Davidson is wed to Mr. Hall

The marriage of Miss Beverly Lou Davidson to Larry Douglas Hall took place on July 12 at 4 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Crawford L. Davidson of Appomattox.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Eugene Hall of Altavista.

The Rev. Edward Leonard, pastor of Memorial United Methodist Church in Appomattox, and the Rev. Lory Brafford, pastor of Altavista Church of Christ, officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride was escorted by her father and given in marriage by her parents.

Mrs. Thomas C. Bryant of Appomattox, sister of the bride, was matron of honor. Attendents were Mrs. Charlie Haskins of Altavista, sister of the groom; and Mrs. Dennis Doss and Mrs. Orie Millner, both of Appomattox.

Mr. Hall was his son's best man and ushers were Charlie Haskins of Altavista, brother-in-law of the groom; Thomas C. Bryant of Appomattox, brother-in-law of the bride; and Irving Robertson of Altavista.

Mrs. Horace W. Folks was Mistress of Ceremonies.

Dana Rena Doss of Appomattox and Patricia Dalton of Gretna, niece of the groom, were flower girls. Chad Sitton of Madison Heights, cousin of the bride, was ring bearer.

Mrs. David K. Woosley of Lynchburg served at the guest register.

After the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Davidson entertained with a reception at their home.

Those assisting with the reception were Mrs. Leonard Anderson, Mrs. Nell Pulliam, and Mrs. Kenneth Roach and Mrs. Mark Dalton, sisters of the groom; Mrs. Charles M. West and Mrs. E. J. Parker, aunts of the bride; also assisting were Mrs. Thomas Mote, Mrs. Edith Ferguson, Mrs. Dorothy Stevens, Miss Cindy Covington and Miss Tami Dalton, niece of the groom.

The bride was graduated from Appomattox High School and is employed by Dodson Brothers Exterminating in Lynchburg.

The groom attended Altavista High School and is employed by Southern Aide in Lynchburg.

After a wedding trip to the mountains, the couple will make their home in Evington.

photo by Robert E. Pankey

ELIZABETH MICHELLE CARWILE won first place in the Miss Photogenic contest held in Lynchburg at the Sheraton Inn on July 12. Michelle was sponsored by Carwile Construction Co. of Appomattox. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald A. Carwile of Pamplin and the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Coleman of Gladstone and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E. Carwile, Jr. of Pamplin. She will compete in the Baby Miss Virginia Pageant Aug. 31 in Richmond at the Hyatt House.

Society News

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Craddock of Virginia Beach, Virginia and Mr. and Mrs. Lindy Hamlett of Farmville were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Anderson on Saturday. In the afternoon the group attended the wedding of Miss Laura P. Blankenship to Mr. Curtis McCormick Jr., at Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg. Others attending the wedding included Mrs. Janie Chernault and Mr. Jimmy and Clark Chernault of Appomattox.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Pulliam spent the weekend in High Point, North Carolina with Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Pulliam, Jr. and three children.

The Pulliams moved from Richmond to High Point where he accepted an employment position.

* * *

Mrs. Lucille Harvey is spending some time in Arlington with her mother, Mrs. Winnie Akers.

Miss Karen Elaine Godsey and Mr. Bryan Thomas Roach

Miss Godsey to wed Mr. Roach

Mrs. Marion Greenwell of Brookenal, and Mr. R. O. Godsey, Jr. of Middleton, Pa., announce the engagement of their daughter Karen Elaine, to Byron Thomas Roach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas C. Roach of Appomattox.

Miss Godsey is a graduate of Appomattox County High School and is presently employed by Armstrong Furniture Industry.

Mr. Roach is also a graduate of Appomattox County High School and is presently employed by B.A. & T. C. Roach.

The wedding date has been set for October 25, 1980.

Miss Mattie Arlene Kidd

Miss Kidd to wed Mr. Booker

Mattie L. Kidd of Appomattox is proud to announce the engagement of her daughter, Miss Mattie Arnelle Kidd, to Mr. Tivey L. Booker, of Appomattox.

The wedding has been set for Dec. 14, 1980 at 4 p.m. in the home of the bride's mother.

ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, July 6, at Spout Spring Baptist Church, from 2 to 5 o'clock, Mr. and Mrs. David H. Cyrus, Sr. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the fellowship hall.

Serving as host for the reception was the entertainment committee of the church. Many friends and relatives attended. Among the guest attending were the couple's son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. David Cyrus, Jr. and their granddaughter, Mrs. Cindy Blackburn, all from Charlotte, N.C. Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus would like to thank each person that made this a most beautiful and memorable occasion. (Photo by Mickey C. Martin)

McCormick family plans reunion

The family of the late Lewis Sanders and Queenie Almond McCormick will have their annual Reunion on Sunday, August 10, 1980, at the home of Russell Bolden and Edith N. McCormick, "Tanglewood Farm", Spout Spring, Va.

All brothers and sisters and their families are invited to attend plus any other kin of the Almond and McCormick families and friends.

Bring your family and a basket lunch, to be served at one o'clock and enjoy this time of fellowship.

Receives degree

RADFORD-Vicki C. Clinedinst of Concord was recently graduated from Radford University during spring quarter commencement exercises.

Ms. Clinedinst received a bachelor of science degree in nursing and is the daughter of E.A. Clinedinst of Rt. 1.

Members of this year's graduating class also will take their place in the institution's history as the first graduates of the university.

Mrs. David Wayne Preas

Miss Shull weds Mr. Preas

The marriage of Miss Alison Shull to David Wayne Preas took place Saturday afternoon, June 28, at one o'clock in Centerville Baptist Church in Chesapeake, Va.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Roy Downer of Lynchburg and Robert M. Shull of Chesapeake.

The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Preas of Lynchburg, Va.

Dr. Dwayne Cole, pastor of the church officiated at the double ring ceremony.

The bride was escorted and given in marriage by her father.

Mrs. Karl Hill, Jr. of Chesapeake was her sister's matron of honor and attendants were Mrs. Edward Register of Chesapeake, sister-in-law of the bride; Miss Linda Preas of Lynchburg, sister of the bridegroom; and Miss Sandra Selover, also of Chesapeake.

Mr. Preas was his son's best man and ushers were Edward Register, brother of the bride; Karl Hill, Jr., brother-in-law of the bride; and Dennis Shirley, all of Chesapeake.

Mrs. Shull, stepmother of the bride, entertained with a reception at the Hill home immediately after the ceremony.

The bride is a graduate of Great Bridge High School in Chesapeake and Indian River Beauty Academy in Virginia Beach.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Rustburg High School, Rustburg.

After a wedding trip to Virginia Beach the couple will live in Chesapeake, Va.

Birth is announced

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Morgan Garrett of Farmville, proudly announce the birth of their son, Jason Randall; born on July 15, 1980 at Virginia Baptist Hospital, Lynchburg. Jason weighed 9 lbs. 7 ozs. and was 21½ inches long.

Maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grishaw Sr. of Appomattox and paternal grandmother is Mrs. Harold L. Garrett of Farmville.

Mrs. Garret is the former Mabel Nadine Grishaw.

Shower honors Miss McFadden

Miss Vivian McFadden, bride-elect was honored with a lingerie shower on June 25, 1980 in the home of Nancy Reynolds.

Among the guests present were Mrs. Ann McFadden, mother of the bride, Miss Debra McFadden, sister of the bride, and friends.

The wedding of Miss McFadden to Larry Oxner will be an event of August 30, 1980 at 7:00 p.m. at Maple Grove Baptist Church.

Mrs. William Malcolm Tilson

Miss Harris weds Mr. Tilson

The marriage of Rebecca Marie Harris and William Malcolm Tilson took place at seven o'clock, Saturday, July twelth at Crawford United Methodist Church in Dinwiddie. The Rev. William Mahon officiated the double-ring ceremony. Mrs. William Young was organist and a reading of the thirteenth chapter of Corinthians was made by Mr. Robert Harris, brother of the bride. Mrs. Margaret Honeycutt acted as mistress of ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace Harris of Appomattox, Virginia are the parents of the bride. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Tilson of Petersburg.

White silk organza and Venice lace were used to fashion the brides victorian styled wedding gown, with a formal-length skirt and a full flowing chapel-length train. A Venice lace profile headdress held her imported silk illusion bouffant veil and she carried a cascade bouquet featuring white minature daisies accented with yellow roses.

Carol Givens was the bride's matron of honor and Miss Terri Singer was maid of honor. The honor attendants wore mint green poly-knit, formal-length, gowns with a blouson bodice and scooped neckline with softly gathered cap sleeves. The waist was belted with a rolled poly-knit belt. Each attendant carried a single, yellow long stem rose with forest green streamers.

Mr. Walter Givens was best man and Mr. Powell Daughtry was groomsman. Ushers were Mr. Robert Harris, brother of the bride, and Mr. Richard Honeycutt.

An outdoor reception was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Young following the ceremony.

Following a wedding trip to Northern Virginia, the couple will reside in McKenney, Virginia.

The bride is a graduate of Longwood College and holds a bachelor's degree in Physical Education and is employed by Dinwiddie County Schools.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College and holds a bachelor's degree in chemistry and is employed by Dinwiddie County Schools.

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